

One of the commission's chief duties is to provide technical assistance to localities and state agencies on the state's boundary change and governmental transition processes. The information below provides an overview of each process and information about previous cases reviewed under each process.

Post Boundary Change Actions

- [Click here](#) for a list of agencies and organizations that localities should notify when their boundaries have changed.
- [Overview of Alternatives](#) describes the various cooperative arrangements authorized by the Code of Virginia, including examples and statutory citations.
- [Discretionary Authorities and Special Districts Available to Local Governments in Virginia](#) is a table summarizing the principal characteristics of the limited purpose governmental structures in Virginia, which includes statutory citations.

Alternative Approaches to Interlocal Concerns Voluntary Settlement of Annexation, Transition or Immunity

The Voluntary Settlement Agreement procedure is the most common action reviewed by the commission. These agreements are negotiated settlements between two or more local governments, usually resolving annexation issues, though a number of other intergovernmental actions can be resolved through this procedure.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Previous Commission Reports](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3400 et seq.](#)
- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-230](#) , [1VAC50-20-610](#)

Boundary Adjustments by Agreement

Also known as "simple boundary line adjustments," this procedure is for when localities resolve to adjust their boundaries with one another, among themselves, without any negotiated terms, which would require review under the Voluntary Settlement Agreement process. Simple boundary line adjustments do not require commission review, unless the location of the boundary is not agreed upon by the localities.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3106 et seq.](#)

- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-350](#) , [1VAC50-20-600](#)

Municipal Annexation

Often referred to as “contested annexation” because the localities cannot agree on terms of a boundary adjustment, this procedure can be initiated by the municipality, citizens or property owners. Currently, there is a moratorium on city-initiated annexations.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Considerations for towns contemplating pursuing a contested annexation](#)
- [Previous Commission Reports](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3200 et seq.](#)
- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-540](#)

Agreements Defining Annexation Rights

This is a streamlined process for towns to negotiate and establish terms for its rights to annex adjoining territory by ordinance. Any agreement also must permanently renounce the town’s right to transition to city status.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Previous Commission Reports](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3231 et seq.](#)
- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-270](#) , [1VAC50-20-310](#) , [1VAC50-20-560](#) , [1VAC50-20-616](#)

Town Incorporation

New towns can be incorporated either by petitioning the Circuit Court or by act of the General Assembly. The court may request the Commission on Local Government to review the proposal. New towns cannot be formed in counties with a population density of 200 persons/square mile or greater.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Counties immune to town incorporation](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3600 et seq.](#)
- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-570](#)

Reversion from City to Town Status

Cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants can revert to town status and become a component of a contiguous county. Various state incentives exist to encourage such transition.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Effects of reversion to town status](#)
- [Previous Commission Reports](#)
- [Cities eligible for reversion to town status](#)
- [Cities that have reverted to town status](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-4100 et seq.](#)
- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-601](#)

Consolidation of Two or More Units of Local Government

Two or more adjoining units of government may consolidate, following a successful referendum. These actions may be initiated by the local governing body or by citizen petition. Various state incentives exist to encourage consolidation of governments. The commission only reviews these cases when the consolidation would result in a city form of government.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Previous Commission Reports](#)
- [Previous consolidation efforts](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3500 et seq.](#)
- Commission Regulations: [1VAC50-20-605](#)

Annulment of a Town Charter

This procedure is initiated by the town council, but requires voter approval. It provides for the town to divest itself of all of its assets and debts and for the General Assembly to formally revoke the charter. The commission does not review these proceedings.

- [Overview and Procedure](#)
- [Previous town charter annulment efforts](#)
- Code of Virginia: [§ 15.2-3700 et seq.](#)